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## **Delaware Geographic Data Committee Announces 2008 Service Award Winner**

DOVER – The Delaware Geographic Data Committee, which is chaired by the Office of Management and Budget, is pleased to announce the 2008 Geographic Community Service Award winner. Nicole Minni of the University of Delaware was honored with award at the annual Delaware GIS Conference on April 23 in Dover. Minni works in the Water Resources Agency in the university's Institute for Public Administration. She lives in Lewes.

Throughout her career and in her personal life, Minni has been actively involved in K-12 education, watershed protection, support for Livable Delaware and in the implementation of the Delaware spatial data framework. She volunteers her own time and expertise to several public and non-profit outreach groups, the K-12 community and through partnerships with state and local government officials.

Minni has represented the Water Resources Agency on several state committees including the State Mapping Advisory Committee, the GIS and Education Working Group, the Delaware Geographic Data Committee and the annual GIS Conference Planning Committee, where she is an active and enthusiastic contributor.

Mike Jackson, the Director of OMB's Budget, Planning and Administration section said Minni's contributions have been significant throughout her career. A top professional in her field, Minni has received recognition from many groups. She received top honors four times from the Towson University GIS Conference in map competitions. She has also received certificates of appreciation from the Delaware Nature Society and the Food Bank of Delaware.

"Whenever Delaware's GIS community comes together to work in support of education, to help local governments, or to plan major events such as this conference, Nicole is there with a cheerful face, an engaged and creative mind, and willing hands. She exemplifies the spirit that this award was set up to honor," said Conference chairperson Deborah Sullivan.

The Geographic Community Service Award is given annually in memory of the late Vernon C. Svatos, an early leader in GIS in Delaware. The award honors those who demonstrate a commitment to furthering geographic knowledge and understanding in the state.